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Urban District Council



MEDICAL OFFICER'S
ANNUAL REPORT

for the
Year ended 31st December,
1946

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1947.

KNARESBOROUGH
Urban District Council

**Medical Officer's
ANNUAL REPORT**

For the Year ended December 31st,
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*To the Chairman and Members of the Knaresborough
Urban District Council.*

HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
KNARESBOROUGH,

July, 1947.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit for your consideration the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for your District, covering the year 1946.


The Report of the Sanitary Inspector, on the Sanitary Circumstances within the Area, is incorporated.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

D. F. DOBSON, M.B., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health.



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Annual Report

Medical Officer of Health ... D. F. DOBSON,, M.B., D.P.H.

Medical Officer to the Joint Isolation Hospital
D. F. DOBSON, M.B.,D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector H. Eatough, M.S.I.A.,A.R.San.I.

SECTION A. - Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area (acres)	2,488
Registrar General's estimate of population, 1946	6,895
Number of inhabited houses	2,304
Rateable Value	£50,536
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£194

The area is mainly agricultural and residential.

There are a number of small industries in the town comprising a Saw-Mill, Plastic Goods Factory, a manufactory of children's school clothing and a linen weaving mill.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS

		Total Male Female.				
Live Births	Legitimate 155	167	100	67	{	Birth rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population...24.2
	Illegitimate 12					
Still Births	... ..	2	1	1	{	Rate per 1,000 of all births.....11.8
Deaths	... ..	115	48	67	{	Death rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population.....16.6
Deaths from diseases and accidents of pregnancy and child birth					{	from Sepsis ... nil. ,, other causes nil.
Death rate from Puerperal Sepsis per 1,000 total births						nil.
Death rate from other Puerperal causes per 1,000 total births						nil.
Death rate of infants under one year of age:-						
All infants per 1,000 live births		...	...	...		35.9
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births		...				38.7
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births		...				nil.
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)		...	...	...		25
Deaths from Measles (all ages)		...	...	...		nil.
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)		...	...	...		nil.
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under two years of age)		...				1

The statistics call for little comment. The estimated population figure remains lower than pre-war. The infantile death rate remains at a satisfactorily low level and the number of births has increased considerably.

Heart disease, cerebral haemorrhage and cancer are still the highest individual causes of death.

Section B. - Health Services for the Area.

The Harrogate and District Hospital continues to supply most of the Medical and Surgical treatment in cases requiring admission to Hospital.

The Bath Hospital, Harrogate, renders specialised treatment in cases of rheumatism and skin diseases.

The Joint Isolation Hospital, Thistle Hill, Knaresborough, provides for all cases of Infectious Disease, except smallpox.

A smallpox hospital is available at Killinghall, within the Rural District.

Hospital provision for the Area is regarded as adequate.

Ambulance facilities are provided by a Joint Committee of the Knaresborough Urban and Nidderdale Rural Councils and the Ambulance is stationed in Knaresborough.

No new Clinics or Treatment Centres have been opened in Knaresborough during the year.

Section C. - Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

Water.

Water is supplied and distributed by Harrogate Corporation and has been excellent in quality and quantity throughout the year.

Extensions to the service have been started to serve the new Meadowside Housing Estate.

Chemical and Bacteriological examinations of water samples taken at intervals during the year were satisfactory.

There are a small number of the older houses in the town without separate supplies of water inside the houses. The only premises taking water from wells are isolated farms and farm cottages.

Refuse collection and Disposal

House and Trade Refuse is collected by the Council using a covered lorry of two tons capacity manned by two men and a driver. A weekly collection has been maintained during the greater part of the year. With the increasing number of houses now being built, it will be necessary to extend this service in the near future.

The estimated annual cost of the service for 1946/47 Financial Year is £1,374.

Refuse is disposed of by Controlled Tipping methods at Manse Lane Tip. No nuisance has been observed from this method during the year and the tip is clear of rats.

The estimated annual cost of the service for the 1946/47 Financial Year is £326.

Sewers and Drains.

Portions of the District which were added at the Review of County Districts in 1938 remain unsewered, i.e., part of Crag Top, Wetherby Road, York Road, and Ripley Road. The temporary work done at Mossops Estate has served a useful purpose in alleviating a bad nuisance but consideration should be given to permanent sewerage for all these areas.

Flooding, due to foul sewers overloaded with surface water has occurred in the Scriven, Halfpenny Lane, and Gracious Street areas during heavy rainfalls and the matter is of a seriousness as to warrant immediate attention.

Public Conveniences.

With the increase of visitors to the town the need for conveniences in the Market Place area is more apparent than ever, the male urinal in High Street is hopelessly inadequate and obsolete.

Factories.

The factories have been inspected regularly and a number of contraventions found, whilst four complaints were received from H.M. Inspector of Factories. All the defects were remedied by informal action.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

Total number of inspections and visits made for nuisances only	786
Number of nuisances found	95
Number of nuisances in hand at 31/12/45	12
Number of nuisances abated during 1946	92
Number outstanding at 31/12/46	15
Number of informal notices served	81
Number complied with	66
Formal notices served	4

Smoke Abatement.

No timed observations have been taken and, due to difficult circumstances, work of this nature has been held in abeyance.

Shops.

Regular inspection of shops takes place and the several infringements of Section 10 of the 1934 Act were remedied informally.

Premises and Occupations Controlled by Byelaws and Regulations.

Number of licensed camping sites	5
Number of licensed movable dwellings	1
Offensive trades	nil.

The camping sites are all well patronised during the summer period and are gradually being brought up to a standard as laid down in the Regulations adopted by the Council in 1944. Due to the Housing shortage, many of these dwellings are being used on a permanent basis and the accommodation, being very sub-standard, is leading to a state of affairs which is not in the best interests of camping.

Swimming Baths or Pools.

There are no public swimming baths or pools in the Area.

Schools.

Inspection of Schools has not taken place.

Infestation.

Sewers in the centre of the town have been successfully treated for rats under the provisions of the Ministry of Food.

The number of vermin-infested premises noted remains small.

Section D. - Housing.

A report on the Housing Position was submitted to the Housing Committee in June, 1946; this is as follows:

“In October of 1944 after five years of war, it was noted with some concern that the Housing position, in so far as the state of repair of working class dwelling houses was concerned, was rapidly deteriorating, and under wartime circumstances nothing could be done to ameliorate the position, with the exception of minor repairs where complaints had been received. After consultation with the Sanitary Inspector it was decided however, that the time was ripe to prepare a programme of houses to be demolished and houses requiring considerable repair, to be followed when conditions were such as to permit proceeding. With this in mind, a list was prepared of some 500 houses which were to be subjected to a cursory examination, with a view to

preparing a further list in more detail constituting the Programme of what, in our minds, should be the Council's programme of progressive clearance and repair of working class dwellings.

"A standard as suggested by a prominent member of the Sanitary Inspectors' Association was used to roughly run over the properties first listed in order to approximately categorise them into Clearance or Extensive Repair. It must be borne in mind, however, that the list is somewhat elastic and properties after full inspection may be transferred from the Clearance column to the Repair column, or the reverse may apply.

"The work was commenced in October, 1944 and completed in May of 1946 and the whole of the original list was meticulously gone through resulting in a Schedule which gives a total of some 236 houses for Clearance and 234 for Extensive Repair. A further point to be borne in mind is, that many houses of a working class type have not been included in either of these categories, it being deemed possible for such to be put, in all respects, fit for human habitation, by works of a minor nature. These constitute a further 775 houses making a total of 1,245 houses, all of which fall within an inclusive R.V. of £14 or under.

"It is intended, therefore, to commence routine Housing Inspections with this latter category as soon as possible, and to proceed progressively through the Extensive Repair list and on to the Clearance list. At the same time, recording of Housing Inspections as required by the Housing (Consolidating) Regulations 1932, will take place, which will in turn provide the Council with invaluable records for future Housing Programmes. To this end, a form of Inspection Sheet for record purposes has been prepared with duplication in the form of working inspection sheets, the completed results of the latter being transcribed on the former and held in readiness for future development."

Four houses have been dealt with under this programme for extensive repair

NEW HOUSES. During 1946, 10 houses were built by private enterprise and in occupation, and 4 more were in course of erection. The Council had made a start on Meadowside Estate which will eventually hold about 180 houses.

Quite an amount of overcrowding exists and the waiting list for houses is in the region of 300.

Section E. - Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Milk.

The 12 Registered cowsheds and dairies have been inspected regularly and are kept in a reasonable condition of cleanliness. Two of the herds are producing Tuberculin Tested milk and

there is a further herd of pedigree Jersey cows. The remaining cowsheds have deteriorated in repair over the past few years and need a certain amount of alteration to reach present day standards.

Production and sale of milk is reasonably clean and results of samples taken are as follows:-

Samples	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Tubercular
35	23	12	1

Eight of the unsatisfactory samples were taken on a day in July when the atmospheric temperature was far above normal.

There are 22 retail purveyors of milk on the Register, 6 of whom are also licensed to retail T.T. milk.

There are 9 wholesale producers of milk registered.

Meat.

Slaughterhouses in the District are kept closed by Ministry of Food order and slaughtering for the District is carried out in Harrogate.

Regular inspections of Butcher's shops are made where conditions found are satisfactory.

Ice Cream.

Regular sampling of this product was instituted during the year and the results obtained were highly satisfactory. 41 samples were taken during the summer months and all satisfied the test prescribed by the County Council.

Regulations controlling the preparation of this product are in draft form and will shortly be issued in final form by the Ministry of Health.

Other Foods.

Routine inspections are regularly carried out at all food preparing premises such as bakehouses, cafe and hotel kitchens and manufactured food premises, and in general conditions are fairly satisfactory.

Section F. - Infectious Diseases.

The District has been very free from Infectious Disease during the year, the number of cases of notified Diphtheria being especially small.

The incidence of Scarlet Fever was not notable but there were a number of cases of Whooping Cough.

Dwelling houses are disinfected after removal of infectious disease cases and, in some instances, where deaths from other causes have occurred.

Incidence of Notifiable Diseases during the Year.

DISEASE.	Total Cases Notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Deaths.
Smallpox	—	—	—
Scarlet fever	17	16	—
Diphtheria	3	3	—
Enteric Fever	—	—	—
Puerperal Fever	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—
Pneumonia	10	—	—
Other diseases			
generally notifiable:			
Cerebro Spinal			
Meningitis	1	1	1
Erysipelas	2	—	—
Other diseases			
locally notifiable:			
Measles	2	—	—
Whooping Cough	28	—	—

Analysis of Cases under Age Groups

AGE GROUP	Scarlet Fever	Diph- theria	Pneu- monia	Cerebro Spinal Menin- gitis	Erysipe- las	Measles	Whoop- ing Cough
0	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
1-2	—	—	1	—	—	1	2
2-3	2	—	—	—	—	—	4
3-4	1	—	1	—	—	1	3
4-5	1	1	1	—	—	—	5
5-10	10	2	1	—	—	—	11
10-15	2	—	1	1	—	—	—
15-20	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
20-35	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
35-45	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
45-65	—	—	2	—	1	—	—
65 and over	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Totals	17	3	10	1	2	2	28

Prevention of Blindness

No action was taken under Section 66 of the Public Health Act, 1925, with reference to blindness.

Tuberculosis

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1946

Age Groups at notification	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
25	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
35	—	1	—	1	—	1	—	—
45	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and over	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total ...	1	4	—	1	—	1	—	—

D. F. DOBSON, M.B., D.P.H.,

The Medical Officer of Health,

for the Urban District of
Knaresborough.

July, 1947.

